

REMARKS

The examiner has indicated that Claims 9-12, 15, and 17 are potentially allowable subject matter if the rejection under Section 112 can be addressed. As recited above, the Specification has been amended to add support for "a gap space containing no bladder." Support for the amendment of the Specification is contained in the drawings. Specifically, in Figures 1,3,4,5, and 6, two vertical parallel bladders are shown which have a gap space between them which contains no bladder. Material shown in the drawings can be added to the Specification as pointed out in MPEP §2163.06 as follows:

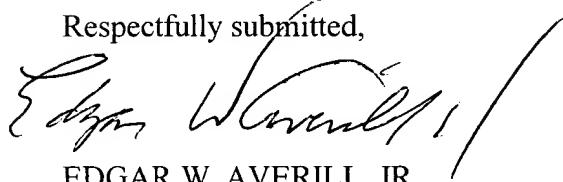
"Stated another way, information contained in any one of the specification, claims, or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter." (Emphasis added)

Since the drawings show bladders spaced by a gap space containing no bladder, the addition of this to the Specification does not introduce new matter. Allowance of Claims 9-12, 15, and 17 is believed clearly proper.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-4 as obvious over Jaeger in view of Bertholon, it is submitted that the gap space, which includes no bladder, is not taught by Figure 3 of Jaeger. This is an essential feature of applicant's invention. As pointed out in applicant's Specification on page 12, lines 5-8, the bladders are spaced apart to exert a support force against the user's spinal column 34 from opposite sides of the spinal column. Figure 3 of Jaeger shows a bladder right along the spinal column which would totally defeat applicant's invention criteria. Allowance of

Claims 1-4 is believed clearly proper over the cited references and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



EDGAR W. AVERILL, JR.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,752

Averill & Varn
8244 Painter Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-8039